

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These Remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2005 (“Office Action”). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of 2-12, 14-21, 23-33, 35-49 for at least the following reasons. These claims are currently provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10, 12-23 and 25-34 of Application No. 10/020,172. Commonly assigned application 10/020,172 has been expressly abandoned, without prejudice, to expedite allowance of the current application. An express abandonment under 37 C.F.R. 1.138 is concurrently filed in Application No. 10/020,172. As no other issues remain, it is believed that all the pending claims are currently in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

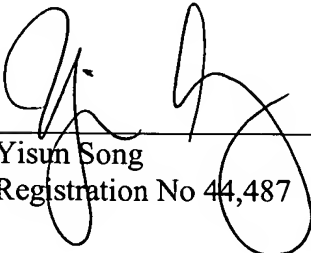
In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that prosecution and allowance of the application will be expedited through an interview, whether personal or telephonic, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with any suggestions leading to the favorable disposition of the application.

It is believed that no fees are due for filing this Response. However, the Director is hereby authorized to treat any current or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. Applicants also authorize the Director to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees, to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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